

After the Attack

An Interview with the Secretary of the Army

Story by Heike Hasenauer

JUST before the now infamous Sept. 11 attack on America, Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White visited Bosnia and Kosovo, and stood on the Macedonian border viewing the aftermath of wars very different from the one America was embarking on at home.

What's very similar, however, he told reporters in a Pentagon interview Sept. 20, is that everywhere he went, reserve-component forces worked side by side with active-duty soldiers.

"I had to cheat a little bit and look at the patch on the shoulder to figure out who was a reserve-component soldier and who was an active-duty soldier, because the expertise, discipline, professionalism is seamless," White said.

On the home front, he witnessed that first-hand, he said, when he met with New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and visited "Ground Zero" — which, he said, "is a sobering experience, to say the least" — and observed some of the work being performed by the New York Army National Guard soldiers who have been there since the early moments after the disaster.

And, at the Pentagon crash site, active-duty and reserve-component soldiers and civilian employees performed "incredible acts of heroism immediately after the attack,"

White said. Had they not risked their own lives to

get survivors out, "the loss of life would have been greater.

"It reiterates the point we keep making that we're one Army today, and that the reserve components are absolutely vital to the Army," he said.

That unity will be critical in the months ahead, he said. As New York City and Washington, D.C., continue their recovery efforts and begin laying the victims of the terrorist acts to rest, U.S. military forces edge closer to President George W. Bush's war against terrorism. Defense Department officials dubbed that war "Operation Enduring Freedom."

As of Sept. 20, with U.S. military forces already repositioning, when the Army would actually deploy for a fight was unknown. Bush signed a deployment order Sept. 19, opening the doors for a mobilization of forces.

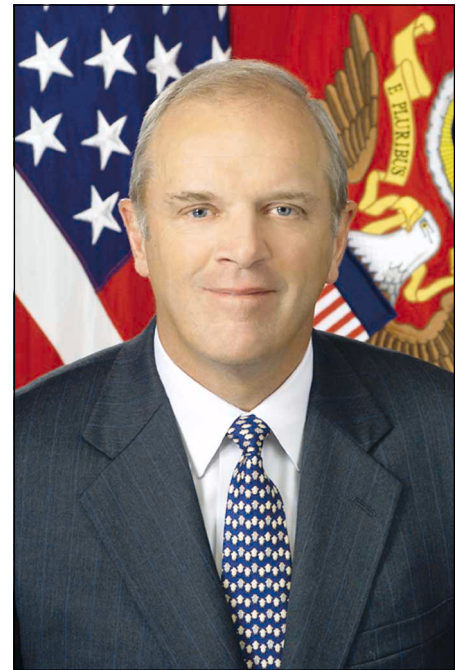
"We're in the process of executing that order, and our components are executing that order," White said.

"It will be a multifaceted campaign aimed at destroying international terrorism from a number of different perspectives — economic, political,

military, operational and in the area of communications.

Consequently, a single deployment order is an installment to that end," White said. "A lot more will come.

"A campaign is characterized by a series of engagements and activities leading up to a common



Thomas E. White

operational objective — that objective being the destruction of international terrorism," White said. "The president's been clear that it's not just a single group engaged in this; there are multiple groups, multiple geographic locales, financial dimensions and communications dimensions.

"If you're going to root out that infrastructure," White said, "you have to have a broad-based approach of all of the elements of national power engaged, and it's very hard to draw a finite box around those sets of activities and say 'we expect to complete it by date X.'

"The name for the operation is consistent with the way we expect it to play out," White said, adding, "The Army is engaged and fully ready to execute its part of that campaign plan.



Secretary White listens as an expert explains the emergency operations underway at "Ground Zero" in New York City.

SSG Carmen L. Burgess

We're ready to conduct sustained land-combat operations as determined by the secretary of defense and the president."

The Army's "ready to deliver," he said, "using all of its combat, combat-support and combat-service-support assets across the whole force structure — including heavy, light, airmobile, airborne and special operations forces."

The Army's transformation plan to make the service more strategically mobile will be "extremely important in combating the asymmetrical threat" that is terrorism, he said.

"Transformation tracks very well with where we're taking the Army, and we would seek to accelerate that process as the urgency of this type of warfare becomes more apparent," White said.

In its October defense budget submission to Congress for fiscal year 2003-2007 funds, White said, the Army would seek full funding for six interim brigades, and for the objective



During his visit to the city, White meets with members of the New York Army National Guard, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the New York Port Authority.

SSG Carmen L. Burgess

force that is currently under technical development.

More immediate will be uninterrupted unit training, White said, adding that it will not be greatly changed as a result of the recent terrorist attacks.

"That's largely because we have restructured what we do in the combat training command to represent a far more diverse threat portrayal than we typically did 10 years ago," he explained. "If you went to the National Training Center 10 years ago, you would have seen a Soviet motorized

rifle regiment in all its glory.

"Today, the portrayal of the threat there and at the Army's other training centers is very multidimensional, with a wide range of scenarios," he said. "And I think that tracks with what you might call 'a more complicated operational environment' than we've faced in the past."

The focus of the first war of the 21st century is on terrorists and governments that support terrorists, he said. What happens next depends largely on what intelligence becomes available and what the focus of the campaign turns out to be, White said.

"As the president very clearly said: We consider those that harbor and support international terrorism a part of the crime, and as we deem them to be a threat and choose to conduct operations against them, we could very well have sustained land-combat operations. We can't rule out anything at this point," White said.

"There's been a lot of talk about Osama bin Laden — the Saudi fugitive being harbored by Afghanistan's ruling religious extremist group, the Taliban — and the fact that he appears to be in Afghanistan, and focusing on that one small region. This is a global issue that we have to deal with," White said. □



During his recent visit to New York SMA Jack Tilley speaks with members of the city's fire department at Fort Hamilton.

SSG Carmen L. Burgess

Count on the Guard

Story by Beth Reece



“OUR first obligation is to the citizens of this country,” said LTG Roger C. Schultz, director of the Army National Guard, in response to the overwhelming support of service members who’ve joined America’s fight against terrorism.

With more than 362,000 members in 2,700 U.S. communities, the National Guard will do its share in protecting America against domestic and foreign enemies, he said.

Schultz added that the

Guard’s key role in combating terrorism falls under homeland defense, through which Guard soldiers will continue responding to local emergencies. Special emphasis will be placed on synchronizing the goals, training and planning of both state and federal responders, including such agencies as police and fire stations, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“Homeland defense is the security of our borders, the security of our communities and the security of the nation’s interests throughout the world,” Schultz said, adding that the homeland mission extends to all Guard soldiers.

“It reaches out and touches every one of our units. Over time, without a doubt, we could all have a piece of that mission response.” Military police, engineers, infantry, artillery, intelligence and transportation soldiers may play major roles.

The Guard is also ready to employ civil-support teams that are designed for quick response throughout the country and are equipped to detect mass destruction in terms of chemical, biological and radiological hazards.

Schultz said he believes that Guard members are in a unique position to protect American communities, since they have already formed close relationships with local citizens. “We grow up together, we live together, we work together. So we know the first responders — the police, and fire and incident commanders.”

As many as 11,000 Guard members pitched in on rescue missions that took place in September and October at the World Trade Center in New York and at the Pentagon in Arlington, Va. Their assistance ranged from medical and military police support to transportation.

Should the nation call upon National Guard members for protection and defense beyond state borders, Schultz said, his personnel are primed for the call.

“The Guard has been in 77 countries this year, training and responding to contingency operations,” Schultz said. “What that means is that every state, every territory and the District of Columbia have already contributed to worldwide obligations.”

Schultz’s words for Guard soldiers are simple: “Whether you’re Guard, Reserve or active — it doesn’t make any difference. When we muster the will of this nation, it is a force to be reckoned with.” □



LTG Roger C. Schultz

The Reserve Responds

Story by Heike Hasenauer

LTG Thomas J. Plewes, chief of the U.S. Army Reserve, has no doubt his units are ready for whatever their role might be in America's war on terrorism.

Before Operation Desert Storm in the Middle East, "We were prepared for the Cold War; the Reserves were provided on a delayed basis. Since Desert Storm, the Reserve and National Guard have changed," Plewes said.

"Desert Storm taught us we don't have a lot of time to deploy. And since then, 16,000 of us have gone to Bosnia and Kosovo," Plewes added. As the active Army has gotten smaller, the Defense Department has relied more and more on its reserve component, he said.

The authority for partial mobilization that President George W. Bush gave the Reserve "is a first," said Plewes of the initial 10,000 Reserve and National Guard soldiers expected to be called to active duty to assist in disaster recovery and provide homeland defense.

"During Desert Storm, we got that authority four-and-a-half

months after the Iraqis came across the border," Plewes said.

Units that would most likely be called up would be used to back-fill vacancies created as active-duty units deploy. As an example, Plewes said, a Reserve military police unit would go to Fort Bragg, N.C., to provide garrison support.

In addition to MPs, other Reserve soldiers that likely would be needed include engineers, linguists, intelligence personnel, and chemical, biological, radiological specialists, Plewes said.

"We're not looking at a national reactionary phase that would result in overseas mobilization of reserve forces," Plewes added. "But," he said, "it could certainly result in something like Desert Storm." Call-ups would then focus on port operations, civil affairs and transportation units.

"We won't call up any units that are not absolutely necessary," Plewes said, "because we know our soldiers have families and jobs."

What many people haven't understood, Plewes said, is that the



LTG Thomas J. Plewes

Army Reserve units "called up" immediately after the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were on voluntary duty, or training status as it's also called, for two weeks. No reserve units had yet been mobilized.

The Army Reserve had approximately seven units — 2,500 soldiers — on the ground in support of recovery operations in New York and Washington, D.C.

The units included three military police (Criminal Investigation Division) units, a mortuary-affairs company from Puerto Rico working at the Pentagon, an MP unit conducting operations at Fort Dix, N.J., and an MP port security unit, Plewes said.

Collectively, Army Reserve units across America and its territories are at the "highest state of readiness," he said. □

